

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1. (currently amended) A method for preparing a
2 protective layer for an aluminum-containing alloy of the Fe-Al, Fe-
3 Cr-Al, Ni-Al or Ni-Cr-Al type the method comprising [[using]] the
4 following steps of:

5 forming depositing Ni, Fe, Cr, or Ti on the surface of
6 the alloy in an oxygen atmosphere to form on the alloy an oxide
7 layer exhibiting having non-aluminum-containing oxides; and

8 heating the alloy to temperatures to above 800°C such
9 that the non-aluminum-containing oxides on the surface of the alloy
10 inhibit the formation of metastable aluminum oxides and
11 substantially only α -Al₂O₃ oxides form.

1 2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1
2 wherein [[a]] the non-aluminum-containing oxide layer [[at]] has a
3 maximum thickness of 5000 nm, ~~especially only 1000 nm, and~~
4 ~~especially advantageously only 100 nm, is formed.~~

3. (canceled)

1 4. (currently amended) The method according to the
2 previous claim [[3]] 1 wherein the deposition is realized by
3 vaporization and condensing or cathode sputtering.

5. (canceled)

1 6. (currently amended) The method according to the
2 previous claim [[5]] 1 wherein the deposition is done through
3 vaporization and condensing, cathode sputtering or galvanic
4 deposition ~~is realized~~.

1 7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1
2 wherein for the formation of [[a]] the non-aluminum-containing
3 oxide layer an aluminum-containing alloy is introduced into a
4 chloride- [[and/]] or fluorite-containing fluoride-containing
5 medium, ~~whereby such that~~ a corresponding oxide or hydroxide layer
6 forms ~~at the on a~~ surface of the aluminum-containing alloy from an
7 alloy metal that is not aluminum.

1 8. (currently amended) The method according to claim 7,
2 further comprising the step of wherein
3 introducing an aluminum-containing alloy ~~is introduced~~
4 into the medium over a period of one minute to five hours.

1 9. (original) The method according to claim 7 wherein
2 the aluminum-containing component is introduced into the medium at
3 temperatures between 30 and 100°C.

1 10. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1
2 wherein for the formation of [[a]] the non-aluminum-containing
3 oxide layer, the aluminum-containing alloy is heated to a
4 temperature below 800°C, ~~especially a temperature in the 500 to~~
5 ~~800°C range,~~ whereby a corresponding oxide layer forms at the
6 surface of the aluminum-containing alloy from an alloy metal that
7 is not aluminum.